

JAMES BROWN, carpenter, 1799-1864

James Brown, son of Samuel Brown and his wife Sarah Randall, was born in Warminster, Wiltshire, and baptised in the parish church there on 23 June 1799. He moved to London, where he married Sarah Austin at St George Hanover Square on 5 August 1827. Sarah was the granddaughter of John Pridden, a well-known London bookseller and stationer. Over the following twelve years, James and Sarah raised a family in St Pancras, four boys and two girls, who were all baptised at St Pancras Old Church.

Henry Austin Brown, 1828-1829

James Edwin Brown, 1830 – unknown in the US

Jane Emma Brown, 1833-1834

Charles Frederick Brown, 1835-1922

George Thomas Brown, 1837-1908

Sarah Alice Brown, 1840-1913

James worked as a carpenter at the Colosseum, a diorama situated at the south east corner of Regents Park. By 1862, he had left the family home. He set up home with a married woman, Rosetta Bishop, in Smith Street, Somers Town, described at the time as “one of the small streets running east and west between the Old St Pancras Road against the Great Northern Railway hotel and Brewer Street, near the Brill public house” but now demolished to make way for the domestic departures hall of St Pancras Station. James Brown died at number 15 Smith Street in 1864. The circumstances of his death were reported in detail in the local and national press.

Contemporary reports of the Somers Town Murder 1864

26 July

The Times

MURDER AND SUICIDE

Yesterday the police received information that a murder had been committed in Smith-street, Somers-town, and upon proceeding to No. 15 in that street they found that their information was correct. In a coal cellar in a back kitchen the body of a woman had been found concealed, and in the last stage of putrefaction. It appears that for some years past the woman, whose proper name was Rosilla (sic) Bishop, had been living with a man named James Brown, a carpenter. This man, although merely a journeyman, had saved money, and was proprietor of several houses in the neighbourhood. He was about 50 years of age, while the deceased was only about 35. They lived in the above-named house as man and wife, and

occupied the two parlours and the back kitchen, the front kitchen and first floor being let off to lodgers. They had been in the habit of drinking and quarrelling. On Tuesday morning last both of them were seen about together, and they were then apparently on the best terms. A short time afterwards they were heard quarrelling in the back kitchen. The deceased was heard to scream as if in great agony, and then to fall heavily. This did not create any surprise, and, in fact, one of the next-door neighbours remarked that the quarrel between Brown and his wife was soon over, and that they had soon made matters up, as all was quiet. Brown was seen about the house as usual that day and the next. He said that he and his wife had had a row and that she had left him. No notice was taken of the fact that the man did not return, as he had given out that he had got work at the docks, and he had before been known not to return till the Saturday night. On the Saturday night he returned. His son, a youth, called to see him, and they, it is stated, had supper, and then retired to rest, both of them sleeping in the same bed. At the usual hour on Sunday morning both got up, and as it was supposed that the murdered woman did not intend to return, Brown was invited to take dinner with his lodger on the first floor, and he did so. Before dinner he was asked why he did not return sooner, and he at once replied that he did not like to do so, as he thought he would give his wife an opportunity of coming back, and was surprised that she had not done so. He ate a hearty dinner, and late on Sunday night retired, as it was thought, to bed, he at the time being as cheerful as usual. Yesterday morning an old woman who occupies the front kitchen noticed a strong smell in the house, which apparently had its origin in the back kitchen. About 12 o'clock a neighbour came in, and in speaking about the smell remarked that it was strange that the deceased woman had not been seen since the day her screams were heard. She suggested that the deceased had been murdered, and that the bad smell arose from the body. She tried the back kitchen door, and finding that she could not get admission there she and the lodger went into the yard and looked into the room. Everything appeared to be in proper order, but, the woman's suspicions being aroused, she determined on entering the room. The window was forced and the women entered, and found, on opening a door, the dead body of the deceased crushed into a small closet under the stairs, with the head downward. The police were sent for, and Inspector Gibson of the S division, and Police-constable Woodrow, 165 S, immediately attended. The body was in an advanced state of decomposition, but an examination of it by Dr. Sutherin, of St. Pancras-road, and Dr. Jackson, of Brower-street, showed that a deep wound had been inflicted on the back of the head before death. Inspector Gibson, finding both parlour doors shut and locked, proceeded to break open the door of the front parlour. On entering he was surprised to find the body of Brown hanging close to the folding door. Round the neck was a clothes-line. The Inspector immediately cut down the body and the doctors

pronounced that the deceased had been dead many hours. The murderer although only a few inches from the ground, had to hang his head on one side to make the rope tight. By some it is supposed that the wound which killed the woman was caused by a kick, and by others that it was done by some heavy blunt instrument. This latter notion was formed by the police; but, although a strict search was made, no instrument calculated to produce the wound which caused the death of the deceased was found that had the least trace of blood on it. A small knife however, was found smeared with blood, but that was not the weapon that inflicted the wound. The man, when hanging, had no boots or coat on, and on the police examining the coat he wore at dinner yesterday with the lodger they found marks as of blood on it, and in the pocket a case containing two razors which had apparently been recently sharpened. The deceased woman is described as having been of very prepossessing appearance and of the most cleanly habits, as her dress and the appearance of the house generally denoted. It is stated that she was a married woman that her husband is alive and resides and works at Birmingham, and that she has had no children. The murderer is also said to have been married, and it is stated that his wife and family are now living. Dr. Lankester, the coroner, has been informed of the discovery of the bodies, and it is stated that, owing to the decomposed state of the woman, the inquest will be held this day (Tuesday).

27 July

The Times

THE MURDER AND SUICIDE IN SOMERS-TOWN.

Yesterday afternoon inquiries were made by Mr. Inspector Gibson, with a view, if possible, to discover the motives which prompted the murderer, James Brown, to take away the life of the deceased Rosetta Bishop. On interrogating the old woman Lodi, or Loader, who resides in the front kitchen, she admitted that she was the medium of a clandestine correspondence between the deceased Rosetta Bishop and a man she was in the habit of occasionally meeting, and she believed that Brown had lately by some means discovered the connexion. She then produced and handed to Inspector Gibson a letter which had been addressed to the deceased woman under cover to herself no later than Saturday last. The inner envelope was addressed Rosetta Bishop, and although there was no address, and it was simply initialled "J. W.," the writer addressed her as "My dear Rosetta," and wished her to meet him that night at the corner of Liverpool-street, King's-cross. It is now believed that the knowledge of this connexion led to the frequent quarrels between the woman and her paramour, and led to the ultimate commission by him of the double crime. During the afternoon the sister of the

deceased woman and some other relatives visited the deadhouse of St. Pancras Workhouse with a view of speaking to her identity, and, notwithstanding the advanced stage of decomposition, they at once recognized it. The coal-cellar or coal-cupboard in which the body of the murdered woman was thrust after the commission of the murder is so small that the murderer must have had some difficulty in getting her into it, more especially as she wore a somewhat large and stiff crinoline, which had to be cut off before the corpse could be got into the shell in which it was conveyed to the deadhouse. It was generally asserted in the neighbourhood that the house in which the deed took place, No. 15, Smith-street, as well as one or two others adjoining, belonged to Brown, but that is not the case. In consequence of the number of previous engagements, Dr. Lankester will be unable to hold the inquest before tomorrow. On searching the back kitchen the first point that attracted attention was the evidence that the hearth in front of the fireplace had been recently taken up, and it was removed by the police with the greatest care, but immediately under it ran the drain. It is believed that but for this it was the intention of the murderer there to have buried the body. Having replaced the stone, Dr. Sutherin, the surgeon of the S division, next directed attention to the hearth-rug, which lay folded up in a corner. On being opened it was found saturated with blood, and contained a quantity of brains, and among them a very cleanly-cut piece of the unfortunate woman's skull. This clearly indicated the fact that the murder had been perpetrated on the hearth rug and in front of the fireplace corroborative evidence being afforded by the fact that the murderer must have himself collected a portion of the brains and skull after the commission of the act and thrown them on the fire, as a portion of brain and clotted blood was found partly burnt adhering to the back of the grate. From the appearance of the piece of skull found, as well as the wound on the right side of the deceased woman's head, it was the opinion of Dr. Sutherin that the blows had been inflicted by a chopper or hatchet. Brown was known by the lodgers to possess such an instrument, with which he was in the habit of chopping wood to light the fire in the morning, but during the whole of Monday afternoon and evening the most diligent search on the part of the police failed in finding such a weapon. The only other instrument calculated to have inflicted such injuries as those found in the skull of the murdered woman was a large iron gas key, about 18 inches in length, and having a sort of pincers at the end, but on being carefully examined there were no traces of blood upon it. A chisel was, however, found, upon which there were spots of blood. Yesterday morning, between 8 and 9 o'clock, Inspector Gibson, who with constable Woodrow has charge of the house, discovered what appeared to be spots of blood on the waterbutt in the back yard, and the circumstance at once suggested to him the probability that the missing weapon might have been thrown into the water. He directed it to be drawn off, and, as he conjectured, at the bottom of the waterbutt was discovered a large

sized axe, such as carpenters use for chipping wood. It was at once taken possession of, and sent to Platt-street station, where, on being examined by Dr. Sutherin, it was found to still retain, notwithstanding the action of the water, evidence of human blood and a large quantity of woman's hair adhering to it, leaving no doubt that it was the instrument with which the diabolical deed was committed. The bodies of the murderer and his victim having been conveyed to the deadhouse of St. Pancras Workhouse on Monday night, Mr. Jackson, of Brewer-street, under the order of Dr. Lankester, the coroner, made a post-mortem examination of that of the woman yesterday morning.. Mr. Jackson was the only surgeon called in after the discovery of the bodies on Monday, and it was he who took the body out of the coal-cellar. Yesterday he found the whole of the right side of the skull battered in, and a large portion of the brain on that side gone out. From the nature of the injuries and from the fact that a chair was found near the fireplace in the back kitchen broken down on the left side, it is believed that the first and fatal blow which drove out the skull before alluded to was given behind, while the deceased woman was seated on it; but the screams that were heard would make it appear that other blows were given deceased by Brown prior to this fatal one. It would appear that the deceased was enabled to get her own living, irrespective of the man with whom she co-habited, as there was a large quantity of female wearing apparel found, and a circular on which was printed, "Mrs. Bishop, dealer in ladies and children's wardrobes, 47, Adam-street west, Bryanston-square," and also a book of the Mary-le-bone Savings-bank, with several pounds entered in her name. It now appears that the man Brown, although he slept in the back parlour on the Tuesday night after the murder, and on the night following (when he sent Mr. Townsend's, the first floor lodger, little boy for some beer) had not been seen in the place from that time until the Saturday, when he came home about 8 o'clock with his son, a youth about 19, and slept with him. The son dined with him and the Townshends on the Sunday, and, accompanied by Mr. Townshend, they went in the evening to his daughter's, Mrs. John's, 9, Coburg-street, Euston-square. The son declined to return home with Brown, and he came back to the house with Townshend about half-past 12. On entering the passage the latter spoke to Brown about the smell, and he said it was the meat Mrs. Bishop had left locked up, and he would go down and remove it. Townshend wished him good night, went upstairs, and Brown un-locked the front parlour and went in. It is believed that he had been afraid to sleep in the house by himself, and that, finding himself alone he then determined to commit suicide. On opening the safe in the back kitchen there was found a piece of cooked loin of pork and part of a currant pie, both of which were mouldy, as well as a quantity of hard, stale bread, indicating that no one had touched it since the date of the murder.

The first intimation that anything wrong had taken place was discovered by a woman named Margaret Murphy, who resided in the lower part of the next house, and who knew the deceased. She had once or twice expressed her want of belief that Mrs. Bishop had gone away and she had such a presentiment that something had befallen her that she once or twice went into No. 15. She at last, in consequence of the smell determined on making enquiries.

July 29

The Times

THE MURDER AND SUICIDE AT SOMERS-TOWN.
THE INQUEST.

Yesterday afternoon Dr. Lankester, the coroner for central Middlesex, opened an inquest at the Elephant and Castle tavern, Old St. Pancras-road, on the body of Rosetta Bishop, who was found dead in the coal cellar of a house in Smith-street, Somers-town, on Monday last. The jury having viewed the body, the Coroner said that this was a case of supposed murder by a person who had afterwards committed suicide by hanging himself. He thought that no very great amount of evidence would be necessary such as if the person suspected of the murder had been at large. There had been some delay in holding the inquiry, but this resulted from the difficulty of discovering the relations of the murdered woman. The first witness called was Mrs. Charlotte Williams, the sister of the deceased woman, who, she said, was a married woman, her husband's name being Brighton Bishop, a painter by trade. They had been separated for many years. She last saw her sister alive about a month since in the New-road, but they passed each other without speaking, as they had not been on good terms for several years. She knew nothing of Brown, or her sister's connexion with him. Their quarrel had nothing to do with the way in which her sister was living. She had seen the body lying in the deadhouse, and recognized it as that of her sister. Brighton Bishop said he was a painter, living at Gloucester. He was the husband of the deceased woman, and had been married to her for 19 years. They had been separated for nine years, during which time he had never heard of her until he was informed of her death. He had not seen her body, but he had no doubt that the murdered woman was his wife Rosetta Bishop. They were living at Birmingham when they separated. They had disagreed over a certain matter, and they parted by mutual consent. They parted good friends, and she took away with her everything belonging to him that she could lay her hands on. He thought it best to allow her to do so. He believed she was addicted to drinking. Mrs. Margaret Murphy said

she was landlady of the house 16, Smith-street, Somers-town, and the deceased woman lived at No. 15, next door. She knew she lived with a man as his wife who was called Bishop, but his real name was Brown. She saw her last alive about four days before the murder took place, as she was hanging out some clothes in the back garden. She was not intimate with her, but only knew her as a neighbour. She often heard her quarrelling with Brown. On last Tuesday week she heard them quarrelling about 1 o'clock in the afternoon. Mrs. Bishop screamed three or four times during the quarrel, which appeared then to end. She saw Brown two or three times afterwards, but not Mrs. Bishop. On Monday morning last, about 11 o'clock, she went to Mrs. Bishop's house to fetch a pail of water, and was let in by Mrs. Loader, one of the lodgers, who lived in the front kitchen. She asked if anything had been heard of Mrs. Bishop, having missed her for several days past. Mrs. Loader replied that she was very unhappy about her, having a presentiment on her mind that something wrong had happened to her. She said that Brown had told her that his "old woman" had gone off with a "fancy man" of hers. She then told her all about the quarrel on the Tuesday before, and that she could not imagine why she kept away so long. From this and from other things that Mrs. Loader said she believed that they would find her body concealed somewhere in the house. She advised her to send for a policeman, and asked her for the key of the back kitchen, which was locked. They tried to unlock the door with the key of the front kitchen, but not succeeding, she went round to the back yard, opened the window, and, looking in, saw the dead body of Rosetta Bishop lying in the coal cellar under the stairs. She immediately sent for a policeman, who came shortly after. She never saw Brown again after the Thursday evening. Elizabeth Loader, who lodged in the front kitchen of Bishop's house, said she had lived there more than 12 months, knew them well, and saw a good deal of them. They occupied the front and back parlour and the back kitchen. They were both addicted to drink, and quarrelled frequently, more especially when they were drunk. She did not know what they quarrelled about, but had heard Brown accuse the woman of going with another man. She did not of her own knowledge know if this was true or not; but Mrs. Bishop was visited by two men, one of whom, a man about 60, she said was her uncle. The other was a man about 40, and came generally once a week when Brown was out. The Bishops had a severe quarrel on Tuesday week in the back kitchen about 1 o'clock. She saw them both in the morning, and they appeared to be quite sober then. Brown came in about 11, when Mrs. Bishop was out. She afterwards returned, and the two went into the back kitchen together and had a loud quarrel. She never saw her alive again. She heard screams and a fall, but there were no cries of "Murder." After this they became quiet, and about 20 minutes afterwards she saw Brown sitting in the parlour in the arm chair. The door was wide open, and he called out to her and said, "The bird has flew," and told her what sort of dress Mrs. Bishop

had on, and that she had snapped her fingers at him outside the door. She saw him again about 4 o'clock on the same day, when he took tea with her and her husband. No one lived with them, and they had no children. Brown went out that evening, and she saw nothing of him till next morning about 11 o'clock, when he said he was going to Kennington. She saw him again on Thursday morning, when he asked her to fetch him a pint of beer. When she brought it he said he was going to bed early as he had not been in bed for a week. She next saw him on Saturday, and again on Sunday morning sitting in a summerhouse at the end of the garden. She never saw him again until he was discovered hanging on the folding doors of the parlour. During the whole of this time he never said anything about Mrs. Bishop. He always wore the same clothes. Towards the end of the week she noticed a very bad smell in the house, which she attributed to the drains or a piece of cooked pork the Bishops had in their safe. The cupboard underneath the stairs could only be opened from the back kitchen. It had a trap-door above on the stair landing, through which the coals were put down. She hardly ever went into the back kitchen, having no business there. She did not see anything particular in Brown's manner during the week. She was in the habit of receiving letters for Mrs. Bishop, addressed under cover to her. On Saturday last she received such a letter, which she at once delivered to the police. The inspector here produced the letter, which was read by the coroner. It was directed to "Mrs. Loader, 15, Smith-street, Old St. Pancras-road," and contained an enclosure addressed to Mrs. Bishop, which ran as follows:- "Saturday Evening, July 23. "Dear Rosetta,- I was much surprised and disappointed at not meeting you according to promise on Tuesday, and have likewise expected you ever since, which I had prepared for accordingly. I sincerely trust that your battle is over. If not, you must be firm in the contest and not flinch from your colours. I have been very unwell all the week, scarcely able to work. Meet me, dearest, at Liverpool-street at 2 o'clock to-day. "Yours for ever, 'W. N."

Police-constable T. Woodrow, 165 S, said he was called to 15, Smith-street, at 2 o'clock on Monday last, by a person who said a woman had been found murdered in the back kitchen. On arriving at the house he got in through the back kitchen window, and found the dead body of a woman lying in the coal cellar, underneath the kitchen stairs. Her head was towards the cellar door, her legs being straight up resting against the wall. Her clothes were over her head, and he could see nothing but her hand. He immediately sent for Dr. Jackson. He searched the house afterwards, and found a knife which appeared to have spots of blood on it, and looked as if it had been wiped. He also found a hatchet in a water-butt in the washhouse adjoining the house. There were marks of blood and some long hairs on it. The butt was half full of water at the time, and the hatchet was standing upright against the side with the handle upwards. He also found a coat with marks of blood on the sleeve in the bedroom. There were a couple of razors in the pocket. The coal cellar was

about 4 feet long, and the body was lying on its back, the legs against the wall. John Hodgekin Murray, coroner's officer for St. Pancras, said that, on Monday last, he was at the house and went into the back kitchen, and while giving directions that the furniture should be replaced in the position it occupied previous to the discovery of the bodies, he found a rug folded together, which, on being opened, was found to contain pieces of human bone and brains. Dr. Jackson, M.R.C.S., of Brewer-street, Somers-town, said that on Monday last he was called to 15, Smith-street. On arriving there he went into the back kitchen, and, on opening the coal cellar door, he saw the dead body of a woman lying on her back with her legs against the wall. He lifted out the body by the arm-pits, and laid it down in the back kitchen. He examined the head, and found a very extensive wound on the right side. He made the post-mortem examination on Tuesday morning alone. On the clothes being removed the body presented the appearance of a fine-grown, healthy woman. On the legs were several bruises, and the right forearm was cut through by an incised wound, which completely divided the ulna about an inch and a half below the elbow-joint. Externally there were four deep wounds on the scalp and cranium. On the left parietal bone was a clean-cut fracture an inch and a half long, dividing the bone and entering the brain. There was a second clean-cut wound on the right temporal bone, taking off a portion of the ear. The third was on the posterior portion of the right molar bone, fracturing it. The fourth was a wound on the chin which divided the lower jaw. The fifth was the most extensive, the whole of the right parietal bone being gone and the skull being smashed in from the occipital bone to the corner of the eye. There was at least two-thirds of the brain missing. The pieces of bone found on the rug undoubtedly belonged to this portion of the skull. The lungs, heart, stomach, and other viscera were perfectly healthy. The body was completely drained of blood. The cause of death was the injuries to the head which were inflicted by another person by an instrument similar to the hatchet found by the police. Before it was found he had come to the conclusion that from the character of the wounds they must have been inflicted by some implement capable of giving both clean cutting and crushing blow. The hatchet was identified by Mrs. Loader as the one used by the Bishops for cutting firewood. It generally stood by the back kitchen window. A conversation here took place between the Coroner and the jury as to whether it would not be better to adjourn the inquest on the woman and open that upon the man, in case there should be any evidence produced during the latter, which might have an important bearing on the verdict to be given in both cases. The inquest on the woman was therefore adjourned until Tuesday next, and that on the man was opened immediately afterwards. John George Brown, of Church-street, Marylebone, said ' I was the son of the deceased, who was 56 years old at the time of his death. His father was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and had not lived at home for seven or eight years.

He last saw him alive on Sunday week, and he seemed in good health then. He appeared depressed and drank a great deal more than was necessary. He did not often see him. His mother and family knew very well that he was living with Mrs. Bishop. He knew nothing about the circumstances of her death. His father said nothing that would lead him to suppose that he contemplated suicide. On the Wednesday or Thursday previously he gave him a watch and chain, telling him he was going to Australia. He did not ask him why he was going. On the Saturday following he gave him some papers and deeds, telling him he was never to let them out of his hands. He had looked at the papers, but did not understand what they meant. He had not got them with him. Elijah Sewell beershop-keeper, of 82, Chalton-street, Somers-town, said he had known the deceased man, James Brown, intimately for 10 or 12 years. He saw him about Tuesday week, about 11 o'clock in the morning, in the bar of his publichouse. He had a bundle of papers under his arm, and he asked him if he had been buying anything. He replied by winking and making a sign with his head to follow him into the skittle ground at the back. He seemed very serious, and produced a bundle of deeds, assignments, and leases. He said he had a quarrel with his old woman, and that she had been away four days. She brought back with her a nosegay of flowers from Covent garden, and said she had been with a young fellow. Witness jokingly said he thought he was too old for her. The deceased replied that she had called him by a vulgar epithet signifying that he was worn out by age. The deeds referred to property in West-street, Euston-road, and Burton Mews. He said he had paid for the house in West-street, which was let for 16s. per week. Nothing further of importance passed, and he went away. He came again on the Wednesday after, and asked him to lend him a sovereign on the deeds which he had left with him, He was about to do so, but his wife stopped him for fear Mrs. Bishop, who was a violent woman, should come there and create a disturbance. He called again on Thursday and Friday, and on Saturday night he came with his son. He asked him for the deeds, and on their being delivered to him, he gave them to the son, and told him to take care of them. He drank half a pint of porter, and left immediately. This inquest was also adjourned until Tuesday next. The coroner then issued his warrant for the burial of Rosetta Bishop, but directed that the body of the man should be retained in the deadhouse until the issue of the inquest was known.

3 August The Times

THE MURDER AND SUICIDE AT SOMERS-TOWN.
THE INQUEST.

The adjourned inquest on the bodies of James Brown and Rosetta Bishop, who were found dead in a house in Smith street, Somers-town, on last Tuesday week, was resumed yesterday before Dr. Lankester, the Coroner for Central Middlesex, at the Elephant and Castle, Old St. Pancras-road. The first witness called was Dr. Harley, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, University College. He stated that on the 30th of July he had received from the Coroner's officer a shooting-coat, a table knife, a hatchet, and a lock of hair. The coat was examined both microscopically and chymically, but no blood was found on any part of it. The knife was a common wooden-handled table knife, much worn, but no blood was found on that either. The hatchet was also examined for blood and brains; but neither was found upon it. On the wooden handle of the hatchet a longhair was found. On microscopical examination it proved to be a human hair of a light brown colour, evidently from the head of a fair person. It was very fine in quality, and had been pulled out by the root, which still adhered to the end. On the back of the hatchet, attached to a rough portion of the iron, were four more hairs, two of which were of the same colour and quality as the one found on the handle. The third was partially gray, and the fourth quite white. They were from 1 inch to 3½

inches long, and had no roots to them, having been either cut or broken. From the chymical and microscopical appearances presented he judged them all to be human hairs from the head of a fair person who was becoming gray. From their fineness he had no doubt they came from the head of a woman. The lock of hair from the head of the murdered woman, when compared with the hairs found on the hatchet, presented so great a similarity as to leave no doubt about the hair having belonged to the same person. When examined side by side they could not be distinguished. The hatchet was of the ordinary kind used for chopping firewood. The blade was covered with two kinds of rust, one old and dark, the other red, new, and superficial. The old rust could be plainly distinguished from the new, from having eaten into the metal, besides which it was not so easily detached from the iron. The hatchet was notched and chopped, and appeared to have been a long time in daily use. At first the handle seemed spotted with blood, but on chymical examination the stains turned out to be dye of some kind. The hatchet blade, too, appeared to have similar blood marks, but it was only where the old rust showed through the new. He found no maggots about the hatchet or handle when given to him. The lock of hair given to him was full of maggots. The maggots found on the hatchet by the inspector could not have been bred in the waterbutt. They doubtless were found there in consequence of the hatchet having lain near the dead body. From the appearance of the new rust, the hatchet must have been only a very short time in the water. Mrs. Loader, the lodger in the front kitchen, was here recalled, and was closely questioned by a juror about the truth of some representations that had been made about her having said

that she had seen Mrs. Bishop lying bleeding on the floor immediately after the screams on the morning of the murder. She commenced by saying that on the day in question she did not go to the back kitchen door on hearing the screams and fall, but that Brown came to her in the front kitchen and asked her to go for some beer. She persisted in saying that she did not see the unfortunate woman at all until the day of the discovery of the body. When Brown asked her to fetch some beer she said she thought she had better get some water first for Mrs. Bishop, who she thought had fainted away. Brown said she would be all right presently, and she went for the beer. He offered her some, but she would not take any. It was hearing the fall that made her think Mrs. Bishop had fainted. Brown took the beer from the dresser where she had placed it and went into the back kitchen. She knew Mrs. Murphy, but she could not say whether the account she had given of the affair was the same as she had given to the jury. Mrs. Murphy was then recalled, and said that Mrs. Loader had told her that when she heard the screams and fall she went to the door of the back kitchen and called out, " My God I you are murdering the woman," and that Brown had replied, " No, I am not; she is all right," and that she would be up presently tearing the hair out of his head. She also told her that Brown then asked her to fetch some beer, and that having done so he asked her to take some, to which she replied that he had much better fetch some water for the poor creature bleeding on the ground. Witness asked her if she saw Mrs. Bishop bleeding, and she replied that she had, and described the way in which she was lying. It was Loader who said that Mrs. Bishop had had two teeth knocked out. She further added that the sight of Mrs. Bishop bleeding on the ground had so upset her that she had been obliged to get some gin when she went out. Mrs. Loader also said that when she came back she saw Brown sitting in the parlour, and the witness repeated a good deal of the evidence already given by that person. Witness told her she had done very wrong not to send for a policeman when she saw Mrs. Bishop lying on the ground, and that she could not understand how she could have believed Brown's story about her having gone away after she had seen her in such a shocking state. She then said to witness that she should send for a policeman then, and they proceeded to search the back kitchen. She was quite positive that Mrs. Loader had said she had seen Mrs. Bishop lying bleeding on the ground, and that two other lodgers had also heard her say so. Mrs. Loader was again recalled, and repeated her denial of ever having said she had seen Mrs. Bishop lying bleeding. The same juror then examined her about a conversation she had had on the morning of the murder with some shopkeeper, but it only resulted in the witness acknowledging that she had told the shopkeeper that the quarrels were so frequent between Brown and Mrs. Bishop that they were going to leave. When Mrs. Bishop came home on the morning of the murder she came into the front kitchen and asked if Brown was at home and whether he was in liquor; to which she

replied that he was at home and had been drinking. Mrs. Bishop then went into the back kitchen, but did not leave her bonnet behind her. About a week before the murder a bonnet came home for Mrs. Bishop, and she had asked her to keep it for her in the front kitchen, for if Brown saw it he would tear it in pieces. The foreman suggested that as Mrs. Murphy's evidence clearly contradicted that of Mrs. Loader touching the conversation they had had together, it would be better to send for the two lodgers who were present at the time. Inspector Gibson was then called. He produced a bonnet given to him by Mrs. Loader on the 27th of July, who said it had belonged to Mrs. Bishop. He asked her how she came by it, and she said that Mrs. Bishop had taken it off and left it in her kitchen just before the murder was committed, and told her to take care of it for her. He had received the letter read at the last sitting of the Court on the 26th ult., and she then had said nothing about the bonnet. James George Brown, the son of the deceased man, was recalled. He said after his father had given him the documents and leases at Mr. Sewell's beershop they returned to the house in Smith-street. About 8 or 9 o'clock he and his father, in company with Mr. and Mrs. Townshend, the lodgers on the first floor, went out, and did not return until past 12. They then went to bed, and he slept until 10 next morning, when they had breakfast. He fetched his father four or five bottles of gingerbeer, which he drank, and then they went out together. His father went into a shop to get shaved, and he wished him good bye. He told him when he left him that he was going to Australia, and that he should not see him again. He gave him the watch because it had belonged to his grandfather, who had willed it to witness; he therefore did not think it strange that his father should give it to him. He had told Mrs. Townshend that when his father gave him the leases he advised him not to give them up except he received £150 for them. Inspector Gibson was recalled, and said he had received from the last witness a packet containing six deeds and other documents relating to household property situated at 11, West-street, Somers-town, and 33, Crescent mews south, Burton-crescent. The last deed was an assignment of the two houses to Rosetta Bishop for the sum of £115. There was also a policy of insurance for the two houses, made out in the name of Rosetta Bishop and describing her as a widow. On Monday week he went to the house No. 16, Smith-street, and saw Dr. Jackson and Police-constable Woodrow examining the body of Mrs. Bishop, which had just been discovered in the back kitchen. He made several inquiries about the matter from the persons in the house, and ascertained that the deceased had been last seen alive on the Tuesday before, and that Brown had been seen in the house on Sunday night. In company with Mrs. Loader, he went upstairs to the parlour and tried the doors, but found them fast. He burst open the front parlour door, and, looking in, saw the body of a man hanging from a rope which was fixed between the folding-doors and the frame by means of a wooden hat-peg. The head was about two feet

and a half from the ground, and the body was in a posture between kneeling and sitting. The head was on one side and the tongue was protruding, and from the position of the body the man could easily have released himself if he had wished. In the pockets of the dead man he found the parlour key, the street door key, 1s. 6d. in silver, and 1s. 2½d. in copper. On searching the place he found a coat with a pair of razors in the pocket, and about the place a savings-bank book bearing the name of Bishop, but, as is usual in such cases, no Christian name was mentioned; he could not therefore say whether it belonged to the man or woman. Eighty odd pounds had been deposited, all of which had been from time to time withdrawn, except £2. 15s. 10d. The hearth-stone in the back kitchen had been taken up, and the earth had been disturbed. He had called on Mrs. Brown, the mother of the last witness, who lived with her and the wife of the deceased man. She was in very bad health, and very feeble. She had told him that on the Saturday before the discovery of the murder he had brought her a brass timepiece as a present. He seemed very agitated, and paced up and down the room all the time. She also said that he had treated her very badly for many years past, giving her sometimes only a few shillings a week, and sometimes nothing at all. When he left he told her he should never see her again. John Townshend said he lodged in the same house as Brown, and was on intimate terms with him. He last saw him alive on Sunday week. When he came home on the Saturday before the discovery of the murder his wife told him that Mrs. Bishop had not been heard of since the Monday, and that Brown had not returned home since Thursday previous. He was surprised at this, and sent for Mr. Loader, who lodged in the kitchen, and told him that if nothing was heard of the missing people before the next morning he would, in company with him, procure a ladder and look in at the back parlour window. Between 7 and 8, however, he was going out with his wife and found his son in the parlour. They all four went out for a walk, and had two pots of ale among them. They returned about 12 o'clock, and Brown asked them into the parlour. Brown did not seem out of spirits, but asked his son to sing a song, which he did. The next day Brown asked him to go across to the Earl Russell publichouse, and they had some beer together. In the course of conversation witness asked him if he knew what had become of Mr Bishop; but he replied he knew nothing about her. He also said he had not been at work all the week, and that he was to call him Bishop no longer, as his proper name was Brown. He then returned to the house and dined with him and his wife. In the course of the day he said he wished to hear no more of Mrs. Bishop. He saw nothing peculiar in his manner, except that he was a little low-spirited. He made an observation to Brown about the drain smelling when they returned from their walk on Saturday night, but Brown answered that it was not the drain, but a piece of pork that he had left in the safe, and which he would throw out in the street the next day. He knew nothing of the screams that had been heard, having

been out at work all day. Dr. Jackson said he was examining the body of Mrs. Bishop in the back kitchen, in company with Police-Constable Woodrow when, hearing a scream from Mrs. Loader, he ran upstairs to the front parlour, and saw the body of a man hanging from the folding doors by a rope. He assisted the inspector to take it down, and made a superficial examination. The face was black and turgid, the tongue was protruding, and the neck was indented by the rope. The man had been dead for several hours, and had died from strangulation by hanging. The position of the body was so low that if he had not exercised voluntary action he could not have hanged himself. The two witnesses who had also heard Mrs. Loader say she had seen Mrs. Bishop lying bleeding on the ground were here examined, and they both swore positively that Mrs. Loader had told them at different times that she had seen Mrs. Bishop lying bleeding from the mouth on the floor, and that thinking she had fainted had offered to procure water to recover her. Mrs. Loader was once more recalled, but she still positively swore that she had never said anything of the kind. This being the conclusion of the evidence, the jury retired to consider their verdict. After the lapse of half an hour they returned into court, and delivered a verdict to the effect that Rosetta Bishop died from the effects of blows of a hatchet given to her knowingly and maliciously by James Brown, and that James Brown had been guilty of the crime of *felo de se* by hanging himself wilfully while in a sound state of mind. The Coroner then issued his warrant for the man's burial within 24 hours in unconsecrated ground and without Christian ceremony. The son applied to the Coroner for the leases and other documents he had given up to the police, but the Coroner directed the police to detain them in safe custody until the legal question as to their proper ownership should be decided.

St Pancras News & Advertiser – Saturday July 30 1864

HORRIBLE MURDER & SUICIDE

On Monday the police received information that a horrible murder had been committed in Smith Street, Somerstown, and upon proceeding to No. 15, in that street, they found that their information was correct, for in a coal cellar in a back kitchen the body of a murdered woman, who had been cohabiting with a man of the name of Brown, was found concealed, and in the last stage of putrefaction.

The following particulars were gained from official sources:-

For some years past the murdered woman, whose proper name is Rosetta Bishop, has been cohabiting with a man of the name of James Brown, a carpenter. The man Brown, although a journeyman, is well to do in the world, it being stated that he has several houses in the neighbourhood. He is about 50 years of age, whilst the

deceased is only about 41. They lived together in the above house as man and wife, and occupied the two parlours and the back kitchen; the front kitchen and the first floor being let off to lodgers. The man and woman were known to be addicted to intemperance, and were in the habit of frequently quarrelling together.

On Tuesday morning last both parties were seen about, and they were then apparently on the best of terms. A short time afterwards they were heard quarrelling in the back kitchen; the deceased woman was heard to scream as if in great agony, and this was followed as if by a heavy fall. This did not excite any surprise; and in fact one of the next-door neighbours remarked that the quarrel between Brown and his wife was soon over, and that they had soon made matters up, as all was soon quiet. The man Brown was seen about the house as usual that day, and the following he reported that he and his "old woman" had had a row, and that she had left him. No notice was taken of this, nor the fact that the man did not return, as he had given out that he had got work at the docks, and he had before been known not to return till the Saturday night. On the Saturday night he returned as usual, and appeared as if nothing had happened. His son, a youth, called to see him, and they, it is stated, partook of supper together, and then retired to rest, both sleeping in the same bed.

At the usual hour on Sunday morning both got up, and as it was supposed that the murdered woman did not intend to return, the man Brown was invited to take dinner with his lodger in the first floor, and he did so. Before dinner he was asked why he did not return on the days he had been absent, and he at once replied that he did not like to do so, as he thought he would give her an opportunity of returning, and he was surprised that she had not done so. He ate a hearty dinner, and late at night retired, as it was thought, to bed, he at the same time being as cheerful as he usually was.

On Monday morning, an old woman who occupies the front kitchen took notice of a dreadful smell that pervaded the whole of the house, and which apparently had its origins in the back kitchen. About 12 o'clock a next-door neighbour came in, and, on speaking about the smell, one of them remarked that it was strange that nothing had been seen of the deceased woman since the day of the screams and the heavy fall, and the neighbour ventured an opinion that the deceased had been murdered, and that the bad smell arose from the fact that the body was buried in the house. She tried the back kitchen door, and finding that she could not get admission there, she and the lodger went into the yard and looked into the room. Everything was to all appearance in proper order, but the woman's suspicions being aroused she determined on continuing the search, and said if the body was anywhere it was in the coal cellar under the stairs, as there was one in her house like the one there. The window was forced, and one of the women entered, and from her exclamations the others followed, and they were horrified

to find on opening the cellar door the dead body of the deceased woman. The police were at once sent for, and Inspector Gibson of the S Division, and Police Constable Woodrow, 165 S, immediately attended. On entering the back kitchen the constable found in the coal cellar the body of the murdered woman. She had been violently pushed in, and, as there barely length enough, her shoulders and head partly rested against the wall. Mt Jackson of Brewer Street, Somerstown, was fetched, and then the body was lifted out. On the side of the head was a large fracture – so large, indeed, that a man could place his fist in it. A further examination made by Mr Sutherin, of St Pancras Road, in conjunction with Mr Jackson, showed other bruises and their appearance denoted that they had been inflicted shortly before death.

Inspector Gibson having obtained the particulars necessary, proceeded to search the place, and finding both parlour doors shut and locked, proceeded to break open the door of the front parlour. On entering he was surprised to find the body of the man hanging close to the folding doors. The body was close to the ground, and round the neck was a common clothes-line. The Inspector immediately cut him down, and the Doctors pronounced that, from all appearances, the body had been dead for many hours. To make a fastening for the rope the man had tied a piece of stick to the cord, and, having placed the cord over the top portion of the door, had shut it closely to. The appearances denote that it must have been a most determined act of suicide.

By some it is supposed that the wound that caused death to the woman was done by a kick, and by others that it was done by some heavy blunt instrument. This latter weapon was found by the police; but, although a strict search was made, no instrument was found that had the least trace of blood on it. A small table knife was found smeared with blood, but that was not the instrument that inflicted the deadly wound.

The man, when hanging had no boots or coat on, and on the police examining the coat he wore when at dinner with the lodgers they found marks as of blood on it, and in his pocket a case containing two razors.

The deceased woman is described as having been of very prepossessing appearance, and of the most cleanly habits, as her garments and the appearance of the house generally denote. It is stated that she was a married woman, that her husband is alive, and resides and works at Birmingham, and that she has no children. The presumed murderer is also said to be married, and has a wife and family now living.

Of course, as soon as the facts got noised abroad, the place was surrounded, but the police were in strong force and prevented any disturbance. The crowd seemed to remark it as a strange fact that the murder was committed so far back as Tuesday last, and that, although there were lodgers in the house, one of them residing in

the next room to that in which the murder was committed, it had not been discovered before.

FURTHER PARTICULARS

The investigations of the police have elicited the following facts in connection with the horrible murder and suicide which took place in Smith Street. Mr Inspector Gibson, and Mr Sutherin, surgeon to the S division of police, together proceeded to a careful examination of the premises. In the corner of the back kitchen the hearth-rug was found rolled up. On opening it dreadful evidences of the murder were discovered. The rug was clotted with blood and brains, and folded up in it was actually a portion of the woman's skull – a triangular piece with the sides cleanly cut by some sharp instrument, such side being about two inches long. This piece of skull corresponded with the frightful wound which was apparent on the head of the corpse when it was found, and Mr Sutherin at once expressed his opinion that it was due to a blow with a hatchet. Further examination led to the discovery of clotted blood and portions of brains adhering, where they had been partially consumed, at the back of the fire-grate. It thus appears certain that the murder took place on the hearthrug where probably the woman lay, and that after the dreadful deed some portion of the immediate evidences were thrown behind the fire, and then the remainder hastily rolled up in the hearthrug as they were. The hearthstone had been removed, but replaced, and could be taken up easily. Beneath it runs a drain. It is probable that the murderer may have taken it up with the view of burying the body in the same way as, it will be remembered, the Mannings did the body of Connor, but meeting with this obstruction, he abandoned this resource. Possibly, being thus cut off from disposing of the body may have induced him to commit suicide. For some time the most diligent search failed to discover the implement with which the wound had evidently been dealt, but ultimately some blood spots being noticed on the water-butt, the water therein was drawn off, and at the bottom was found an axe, such as carpenters use. Notwithstanding the action of the water, this axe, which was examined by Mr Sutherin, still retained marks of blood, and had adhering to it some woman's hair. This discovery seems to show clearly how the murder was perpetrated. But few additional facts have transpired concerning Brown's behaviour or doings prior to the murder and between the time when in all probability he committed the crime and his own suicide. He slept in the parlour over the back kitchen, in which the murder had taken place, on the Tuesday night and on the night following, but he did not come back to the place from that time until the Saturday. His son then came with him, and slept with him that night. On the Sunday they dined together with the lodger, named Townshend, who afterwards went to visit Brown's daughter, living not far from

the place. In the evening the son declined to return with his father, and Brown came back alone with Townshend, at a little before one o'clock. When they entered the house Townshend remarked about the dreadful smell which was so oppressive, and Brown made an excuse saying it proceeded from some meat that was locked up downstairs, but that he would remove it. He then unlocked his parlour door and went in alone. The deceased woman, it will be remembered was named Bishop, although she was called Brown. A book of the Marylebone Savings Bank has been found, in which several pounds are entered to her name. A large quantity of wearing apparel was also found in the house, as well as a circular on which was printed, "Mrs Bishop, dealer in ladies' and children's wardrobes, 47, Adam Street, West, Bryanstone-square".

THE INQUEST

Dr Lankester held an inquest on the bodies, at the Elephant and Castle, on Thursday, when after several witnesses had been examined, it was adjourned to Tuesday next. An order was given for the burial of Mrs Bishop but not for Brown.

St Pancras News & Advertiser – Saturday August 6 1864

THE MURDER AND SUICIDE IN SOMERSTOWN

Dr Lankester, Coroner for Central Middlesex, and the jury empanelled to inquire into the deaths of Rosetta Bishop, aged 42, and James Brown, aged 56, the former of whom was murdered by the latter, at 15, Smith-Street, Somerstown, resumed their inquiry at the Elephant and Castle, Camden Town, on Aug.2.

On the jury re-assembling, the Coroner referred to the evidence previously taken and said, in order to complete the case of the murdered woman, he had directed the knife, the hatchet, and the coat belonging to Brown be sent to Dr Harley for analysis as to blood, and it would be better first to hear him.

Dr Harley was then sworn, and gave it as his opinion that there was no trace of human blood on either of the articles in question, although on the hatchet there were some hairs, which might have belonged to the deceased woman.

Harriet Loader, the lodger in the front kitchen, was recalled, and said she heard the scream of Mrs Bishop on the Tuesday when the quarrel took place. Did not go to her assistance because she was afraid. After hearing the screams, Brown came and asked her to go and get some beer.

By a Juror: will swear that I did not go into the back kitchen and see the blood all over Mrs Bishop's face. I went and asked if I should fetch some water to wash Mrs Bishops' face, and was going into the back kitchen when Brown shut the door in my face, and said she

only fainted. I then went for the beer, and put it at the corner of my dresser, and Brown came in and fetched it, and took it into the back kitchen.

Margaret Murphy was recalled: she said when went into No.15 Smith Street, for the pail of water, she had a conversation with the previous witness, which she had not stated to the jury on the previous occasion. She told me that at the time of the quarrel, Brown came and asked her to go for some beer, and she did so, and when she brought it back Brown asked her to drink, and that she replied to him, no she would not, but she would fetch some water for the poor creature bleeding on the ground (alluding to the deceased woman). She said she saw Mrs Bishop lying on the floor and she saw she had two teeth driven down her mouth. He refused to let her get the water, and said she would see her jump up and pull the hair out of his head. Mrs Loader said she then went out, and on her return she saw Brown sitting in his parlour. It was hearing all this that made witness think the woman was murdered and Loader then agreed with her, as she said she did not believe the woman could have gone out in a quarter of an hour after, in the state in which she saw her on the day of the murder.

Loader was recalled, and denied positively that she had ever seen the deceased woman alive after she fetched the beer. She did not recollect having told Mrs Murphy that she had seen her bleeding on the ground. Recollected going to Mrs Bond's for snuff, in Brewer-street, on Monday week, before the murder was discovered, and said she was going to leave as they were always quarrelling. Did not recollect telling Mrs Bond that she had seen the deceased woman bleeding on the ground.

The Coroner said if there was evidence that the witness Loader had seen the women so described, she was an accessory after the fact, and would be liable to prosecution as such.

Inspector Gibson, S Division, produced a Leghorn bonnet which the witness Loader had given her on the morning of the murder about 5 minutes before she heard the screams. She said Mrs Bishop came home, and finding Brown was there came into her kitchen and gave it to her to take care of, and then went into the back kitchen where Brown was. She gave him the bonnet on the 27th, the day after she gave him the letter she had received addressed to Bishop.

William Royslance said he lived at 16, Smith-street, and on hearing of the murder he jumped over the back wall and saw Mrs Loader. She said she was there when the murder took place; for hearing screams she opened the back kitchen door and saw the woman bleeding on the floor, having heard screams and a heavy fall previously. She exclaimed, "my God, Brown, are you murdering the woman;" and he said no, only faint; and he sent her for some beer, which she fetched, and that he then sent her out for liver and bacon, and when she came back she asked where Mrs Bishop was, and Brown said she had gone out and stood at the window and made faces at him.

By a juror: remembered Mrs Loader distinctly stating that she saw the poor wretch bleeding in the back kitchen.

Elizabeth Royslance, wife of the last witness, gave corroborative testimony on this point, and added that Mrs Loader told her she was so unnerved by the sight of the blood, that she when went for the beer she had three-halfpenny worth of gin to settle her nerves. Witness told her instead of acting as she had done she ought to have brought in a policeman with her.

Mrs Loader was recalled and asked what she had to say in answer to this evidence. She said she was very excited, but did not recollect saying anything of the kind. In answer to questions, she said she heard the screams and a cry of murder, and a blow and a fall.

After some further evidence, the room was cleared of strangers, and, after a conference of half an hour, the court was re-opened, and the jury returned the following verdicts:- "That the said Rosetta Bishop died from the fracture of her skull from blows given by means of a hatchet used by James Brown, and that the said James Brown did feloniously and maliciously kill and murder the said Rosetta Bishop. That the said James Brown did actually and maliciously subsequently destroy himself by strangulation, being at the time in a sound state of mind and that the said James Brown was guilty of *felo de se*."

The coroner said it was now his duty, in accordance with the law, to direct that the body of the said James Brown should be buried within 24 hours, and the said burial should take place without the ceremony of the church or any other religious ceremony being performed over it.

The witness Loader was then directed to be brought into court. The coroner said he was requested by the jury to censure her most severely for not having called the attention of the police to the fact, clearly established, that she had seen the poor woman covered with blood and heard her screams. He had also to tell her that her evidence throughout had been most unsatisfactory and prevaricating, and that she was deserving of the most severe censure for her conduct throughout this dreadful affair.

St Pancras Reporter 6 August 1864

BURIAL OF THE MURDERER BY TORCHLIGHT

On Wednesday night, at a quarter past eleven, the mortal remains of James Brown, who murdered Rosetta Bishop, at 15 Smith-street Somers-town, were taken to Finchley cemetery and there interred. The coroner's jury having returned a verdict of *felo de se*, the man was buried without the burial service being performed. Just before the arrival of the hearse at the cemetery, Inspector Gibson of the S division, and Murray, the coroner's officer, lighted torches, and walked by the side of the hearse to the grave. There were very few people about, and those that were there were attracted by the light

of the torches. None of the friends of the deceased were in attendance. The body of the murdered woman was interred in the same cemetery on Friday week.

CORONER'S VERDICTS

that James Brown did actually and maliciously destroy himself by strangulation, being at the same time in a sound state of mind, and that the said James Brown was guilty of *felo de se*.

that Rosetta Bishop was wilfully murdered by James Brown fracturing her skull.

JOHN PRIDDEN, 1728-1807



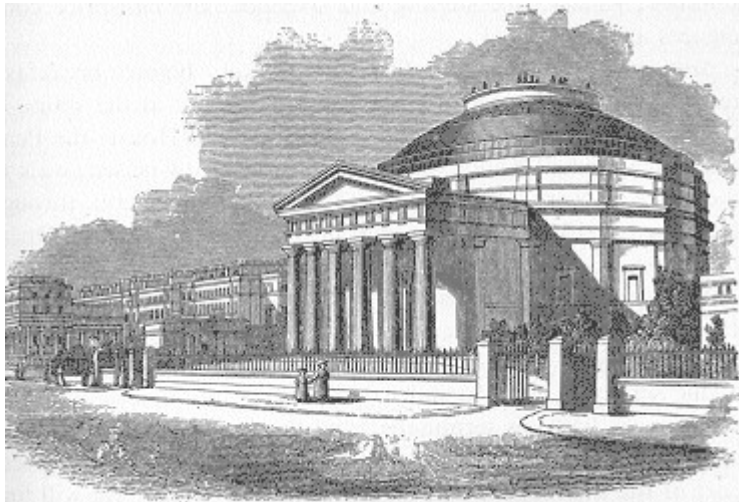
Mr. John Pridden, who was born at Old Marton Hall, was one of the many instances in which integrity and perseverance have introduced their votaries to ease, affluence, and satisfaction; and a few particulars respecting this truly worthy man, may be useful in animating others to appreciate the value of unsullied honour, and to bear up against the torrent of stern oppression.

His parents were respectable, and rather wealthy, but his father dying when he was only twelve years old, and his mother marrying again, the subject of this memoir soon experienced the withdrawn protection of a mother, and the most unmerciful and cruel treatment of a step-father. The severity with which he was treated, was so great that he was frequently laid up, and often rescued by the neighbours from the tyrannick grasp of his father-in-law. But, nothing could subdue the inexorable temper of his foster-father, and the oppressed youth determined at last to leave his home, and seek his fortune in the metropolis. This happened soon after the commencement of the French war, in 1744, when having proceeded on his journey as far as Worcester, and finding there a hot press for soldiers, he did not relish the probability of a military attachment, but adopting what he considered the least of two evils, returned home. For this self-defensive offence he was regularly and systematically thrashed every Tuesday and Saturday, the days of his exit and return, for three years, when unable any longer to endure his unmerited sufferings, he once more bade an eternal adieu to his unpropitious habitation, and arrived in London, on the 25th of March, 1748, where he soon found protectors in Mr. John Nourse, in the Strand, and Mr. Richard Manly, Ludgate-hill; the latter of whom, he succeeded in business. The libraries of many eminent and distinguished characters passed through his hands; his offers,

on purchasing them, were liberal; and, being content with small profits, he soon found himself supported by a numerous and respectable set of friends, not one of whom ever quitted him. Before the American Revolution, his house was the rendezvous of the clergy, of that country: and when that unfortunate event took place, both his purse and his table were open to their wants. About the year 1782, he became totally blind, but was relieved from that malady by the judicious hand of Baron De Wenzel, and enjoyed his eye sight to the last. He was naturally of a weak habit of body, but his extreme temperance and uninterrupted complacency of mind, insured to him an almost constant flow of health and spirits. To do good, was his delight; to communicate happiness to all around him, was his unceasing aim. He was a most amiable and indulgent parent, a sincere friend, and in the strictest sense of the terms, an honest man. The following anecdote appeared in one of the publick prints, immediately on his death, no doubt inserted by some grateful friend as a memorial of the goodness of his heart: "Seven years ago, on the failure of his less fortunate next door neighbour, he invited him to his house, and relinquished business to give him the opportunity of continuing on the spot: his kind intentions met with success; and he frequently expressed the pleasure he felt at seeing his friend prosper under his roof." He married, March 27, 1757, Anne, daughter of Mr. Humphrey Gregory, of Twemloes, near Whitchurch, Shropshire, by whom he had fourteen children, nine of whom died young, of the small pox; and two sons and three daughters survived him. His wife died April 1, 1801: he survived till March 17, 1807. John, the eldest son, was educated at St. Paul's school, and at Queen's college, Oxford; B.A. 1781, M.A. 1789,- he became vicar of Caddington, in Bedfordshire, a minor canon of St. Paul, London, and of St. Peter, Westminster; and one of the Priests of his Majesty's chapels Royal. The other son, Humphrey Gregory, was, for a short time, a Bookseller, and was lately living, but wholly retired from business. The daughters, all married respectably."

obituary in The Gentleman Magazine 1807 v1 p285

THE COLOSSEUM, REGENTS PARK, LONDON



This exhibition, one of the most beautiful in London, is open every day, Sundays excepted, from 10 till dusk. Admission to each part 1s.

The Colosseum is, as its name implies, a building of immense proportions. This vast structure was commenced in 1824 and completed in 1827, under the direct superintendence of Mr. Decimus Burton; its substance is brick, faced with cement, tinted to imitate stone. The interior is judiciously disposed into a saloon, where works of art are exhibited, and galleries for viewing the splendid panorama of London. This latter exhibition is a very extraordinary performance, alike remarkable for its extent and fidelity of representation: it occupies nearly an acre of canvass, painted under the superintendence of Mr. Parris, from sketches made by Mr. Horner in 1821, from St. Paul's, at the time when repairs were going on above the dome of that cathedral. By the aid of machinery that carries a moveable room through the centre of the building, the visitor is raised to a level with the summit of the panorama, and thus spared the trouble of mounting a staircase. A model of the cross of St. Paul's, and the original ball, are retained at the Colosseum. The gardens surrounding the Colosseum are laid out so as to appear much more extensive than they really are, and comprise conservatories, waterfalls, fountains, a Swiss cottage, a marine cave and grotto, all of beautiful construction.

Mogg's New Picture of London and Visitor's Guide to its Sights, 1844